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PATENTANWÄLTE RECHTSANWÄLTE

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire
United States Surgical Corporation

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 1

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	WO 99 11178 A (MGF GROUP, INC.) 11 March 1999 (1999-03-11) * page 11, line 13 - page 13, line 17; figures 12-17 *	1,8,13	A61B17/115
A	EP 0 885 595 A (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORPORATION) 23 December 1998 (1998-12-23) * the whole document *	1,8,13	
A,D	EP 0 820 725 A (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORPORATION) 28 January 1998 (1998-01-28) * the whole document *	1,8,13	
A	WO 97 40754 A (OTICON A/S) 6 November 1997 (1997-11-06) * the whole document *	1,8,13	
A	US 5 951 576 A (WAKABAYASHI) 14 September 1999 (1999-09-14) * abstract; figures * * column 4, line 38 - column 5, line 8 *	1,8,13	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A61B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	THE HAGUE	20 December 2000	Giménez Burgos, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 12 0262

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

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A surgical instrument (10) for anastomosis of first and second blood vessels includes a housing (26) having distal (22) and proximal(24) ends, a handle (12) and a disposable loading unit (100) removably mounted to the distal end (22) of the housing (26). The loading unit (100) includes upper and lower fastener support members having a passage defined therethrough for receiving an end of the second blood vessel and configured to releasably support a plurality of surgical fasteners (260). The loading unit also includes a retractable anvil located at a distal end of the loading unit (100), the anvil being movable relative to the fastener support member in response to actuation of the handle (12) to simultaneously deform the of surgical fasteners (260).